

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 12-14 and 16 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 4 and 7 are amended and Claims 17 and 18 are added by the present amendment. Claims 5-6, 11 and 15 were previously canceled

Amendments and new claims find support in the specification as originally filed, at least at page 15, line 15, to page 16, line 1, and Figures 7-9. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action; Claims 3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0121590 to Yoshida et al. (herein “Yoshida”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,349,155 to Youda et al. (herein “Youda”); Claims 4 and 8 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 12, 14 and 16 are allowed.

Initially, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 4 and 8. Accordingly, new Claim 17 is added to recite the features of Claims 3 and 4, and new Claim 18 is added to recite the features of Claims 7 and 8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 17 and 18 are allowable.

Further, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yoshida in view of Youda, with respect to amended Claims 3 and 7.

Amended Claim 3 is directed to a contact-type image sensor module that includes, in part, a document guide that includes a slit configured to pass the reflected light.

In a non-limiting embodiment, Applicants’ Figure 8 shows an example of a document guide 12 that includes a slit 12a. As shown in Applicants’ Figure 9, the reflected light may pass through the slit 12, for example when illuminating a document 8 with an infrared light.

In this case, the document guide 12 advantageously includes the slit 12a so that a substance having a refractive index greater than that of air does not intervene between the reflected light and the light-receiving part.<sup>1</sup>

Applicants respectfully submit that Yoshida and Youda, whether taken individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each feature of amended Claim 3. For example, the references fail to teach or suggest a document guide that includes a slit configured to pass a reflected light. As noted in the Office Action, Yoshida fails to disclose the claimed document guide. On the other hand, Youda describes a document guide 21. However, the document guide of Youda does not include “a slit configured to pass the reflected light,” as recited in Claim 3.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 3, and claims depending therefrom, patentably define over Yoshida and Youda.

Amended Claim 7 is directed to a contact-type image sensor module that includes, in part, a document guide that is configured to detach the transparent element from the housing when the light-receiving part receives reflected light including infrared light.

As shown in the non-limiting embodiment of Applicants’ Figures 7 and 9, the document guide 12 is configured to detach the transparent element 51 (see Figure 9) when imaging with infrared light, thereby advantageously avoiding an IR defocusing problem.<sup>2</sup>

Applicants respectfully submit that Yoshida and Youda, whether taken individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each feature of amended Claim 7. For example, the references fail to teach or suggest a document guide that is configured to detach a transparent element. As noted in the Office Action, Yoshida fails to disclose the claimed document guide. Moreover, Youda describes a document guide 21. However, Youda does not indicate or otherwise suggest that a transparent element 16 may be detached. Thus, Youda fails to

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<sup>1</sup> Specification at page 16, lines 14-18.

<sup>2</sup> Specification at page 16, lines 2-18.

teach or suggest a document guide configured to detach a transparent element under certain light receiving conditions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Yoshida and Youda fail to teach or suggest a contact-type image sensor that includes a document guide “configured to detach the transparent element from the housing when the light-receiving part receives the reflected light including the infrared light,” as required by Claim 7.

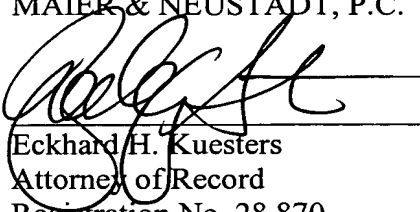
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 7 and claims depending therefrom patentably define over Yoshida and Youda.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 3 and 7, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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